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Quarterly Historical Magazine.

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DIARY OF JOHN BLAIR.[1]

(Continued from Vol. VII., p. 153.)

Copied from an Almanac for 1751, Preserved in Virginia Historical Society.

JANUARY.

1. Buckland pays 800, suppos^{d} to 1200 acres. Col. Burwell says Cole[2] had notice to survey.

2. Mr. King tells me my goods will come to James Town; must send thither.

4. Mr. Travis and Mr. Mecklin promise y^{r} car. Bo^{t} Sandy Reid's cow, and p^{d} 50^{s} for her.

7. Mr. Cary disap^{td} and hired ano^{r} vessell for ye Govr.

8. But much ice in ye river at Col. Burwell's.

9. Had a letter from Col. Buckner ab^{t} Mr. Pelh^{m}.

10. Mr. Prentis sent down his cart, by whom I writt to Col. Hunter.

13. Heard of Wm. Taylor, drown'd in Carolina.

14. Our Spinnet came home lame.

18. Mr. Pelham approved of it, and of the musick sent with it.

18. Simmons and McGuire were hang^{d}.

19. P^{d} Mr. Waller for corn, and shew^{d} him a letter.

22. Col. Roscow wth me ab^{t} J. Blair—went wth Richards to Gov^{rs} house, and had much talk wth Mr. P. Johnson.

23. Mr. Richards gave in proposals in a very loose manner. Spoke wth Mr. Crosby ab^{t} J. B^{s} note. Mr. Warrington signed bond to-day.

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[1] This is the supplementary portion referred to on page 153, note 2, as written on the blank leaves in the back of the almanac.

[2] William Cole, of Buckland, Charles City county. See QUARTERLY V., p. 177-181.

24. Writt to Mrs. Prentis ab^{t} Creswell.

25. Wheatly shew^{d} me that he had finish^{d} Mr. Skelton's work, but Skelton took no care of it. Settled wth Mrs. Dimond.

26. Sent off my let^{r} to Col. Lewis, a packet. Mr. Johnson inform'd me of what was said by C—r and others ab^{t} their subscrip^{ns} and of y^{r} press^{g} him. This was told me ye 22nd.

30. Mr. Dawson inform^{d} me what Simmonds said relating to Presley's murder.[1] Mr. Taswell made an entertainment on his succeed^{g} Mr. Clack. Palmer very rude.

31. Skelton sett off to go up to bury his wife, having got a black coat for it. Rec^{d} a letter from Col^{o}. Hunter and Maur^{ce} Jones ab^{t} the tombstone. It is now at the ferry in its way to James Town. I writt to Mr. Travis and Mr. McMacklin to get it out there and into the church-yard on my acco^{t}. Settled wth the sheriff of Hanover and p^{d} him for my 915 acres there, but did not pay him Mansfield's note on me, it being mislaid. So that is refer^{d} to his coming down. I settled Capt. Keeling's acco^{t} wth him and took his hand to it. But am to send up to Hanov^{r} court ye mortg^{e} &c^{a}., and the exec^{rs} bond.

FEBRUARY.

2. Last night the college bell tolled they say ab^{t} an hour, very slow and regular, till some went up and stopt it, who saw nobody. Sent up Keeling's bonds and mortgage in a letter to H. Gilbert ℘ Mansf^{d} Blagrave wth a bond for him and Rich^{d}. Keeling to execute in lieu thereof and send me from their court.

4. Mr. Macklin tells me the tombstone came to James Town ye 2^{d}, but low tides hinder ye landing it; ab^{t} wch he promises his care.

5. Gave Ralph Crutchf^{d} a note on Mr. Prentis for £8, 5. Spent the even^{g} (after a visit at Mr. Everard's) at Doct^{r} Gilmer's; and betho^{t} me of the way of coming off even wth—

[1] "On Friday last James McGuire for murder and William Simmons for robbbery (suppos'd an accomplice in the murder of Col. Presley) were executed in this city. They both behaved penitently, and confessed the facts for which they died."—*Virginia Gazette*, January 24, 1751. Colonel Presley thus mentioned was Colonel Peter Presley, of "Northumberland House," who was murdered by his own servants. He was the last of his name in Northumberland. His daughter and heiress, Winifred, married Anthony Thornton, of Stafford county, and was mother of Hon. Presley Thornton, of the Colonial Council, who died December 8, 1769.—QUARTERLY IV., pp. 93, 163.

7. Walk'd with Col. Burwell to his plowing and had his acco^{t} of raising his hoggs.

9. Took Mr. Crosbie's oblig^{n} for £40. Doct^{r} G—— disappoint^{d} of his expecta^{n}.

11. J. Blair offer^{d} a furth^{r} mortg^{ge} and pow^{r} of att^{o}.

12. But went up this morn^{g} wth out wth Jamison. Vestry to-day agreed to lengthen ye church; and being a full vestry the gate before it was again disputed, but carried by 9 to 4.

13. Gave Mr. Palmer Jno. Terry's bond, also two bonds of Lane Cookson's for wch Capt. Terry was security and Jno. Terry assum^{d} also Pemberton's acco^{t} in all about £126.

14. Rec^{d} 18 Octr Fines from Sec^{ys} office. Col. Patton's messenger return'd with Mr. Presid^{ts} letter and mine writ yesterday. Rec^{d} a demand for Mr. Bowden and Partn^{r} from Mr. Ambler for the capital. Mrs. Goosley, I hear now, went up yesterday to be cook at Sandy Point.

15. Paid Cole for 20 hides to be dd £6, 10. Matt and Simon gone off together.

16. Each had cloths making at Hornsby's of goods stolen from Mr. Randolph.

18. Simon surrend^{d} himself, and is in prison.

19. Gave Sam Wallace a note on his mother and sister for Wills's debt to me. Hear sad news of poor Mr. Randolph.

20. This even^{g} Mr. Muir fr^{m} Presid^{t} here. I heard to-day that Mr. Eaton recover^{d} the land last ♃ ye 14th in N. Kent court. Heard of gr^{t} subscrip^{ns} in K. Wm. and N—ward towards seat of gov^{nt} at New Castle.[1]

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[1] New Castle was situated in Hanover county, on the Pamunkey river. Above it four or five miles was Hanover Town, anciently called Page's Warehouse. Both places were rivals of Williamsburg for the new capitol at this time. The country around was a beautiful agricultural section, on which the finest kind of tobacco was raised. Gradually the tobacco fields were converted into cornfields, and the channel of the Pamunkey at this point was much filled up, so that the numerous sloops and schooners that visited the section had ceased to come fifty years later. Both places became deserted. The attempt to fix the capital of the colony on the Pamunkey was attributed to John Robinson, the Speaker of the House of Burgesses, who resided in King and Queen county near by. At the meeting of the General Assembly John Blair had to apologize to the House for pointing out their Speaker and saying aloud, "There goes the man who is at the bottom of this hellish plot."

21. Advertised Matt. and heard of his being taken. Dr. Gilmer and my sister here; but no——. Gardiner fought wth Sakie fr^{m} A Reids.

22. Stopt the advertisement before printed. Writ to Col. Lewis by Mr. Muir. attended Matt's examination before Mr. Holt and made discoverys.

24. Mr. Comr^{y} pr^{d}. ag^{t}. fornication and adultery and p. m. on ye sin and destruction of Sodom.

25. Gave the fines, being 18, to J. Cocke. Mrs. Burwell and others at Billiards. Jno. Burwell and Betty Blair Enter'd wth Mrs. Dimond to learn to read this day.

28. Writt to Pres^{t} and sent an Eng. letter ℘ express, also writt to Sher. Nancem^{d} wth Jacks^{ns} ven. fac^{s}.

MARCH.

1. Mr. King[1] shew^{d} me Symer's protest.

3. Sad news from coast of Africa; a ship burnt, &c., and great mortality am^{g} ye slaves of another. Query What done on judgm^{t} ag^{t} Mr. Field.

9. Mr. Warrington wth me ab^{t} his mad wench. I sent yesterday a letter to the ferry for Mr. Riddick with a subp^{a} for Pasquo Turner ag^{t} Lowe Jackson.

10. Col. Bolling came to be an evidence to^{morrow}.

11. Rec^{d} a lett^{r} fr. Presid^{t} ab^{t} a prohibition and writt to Mr. Nelson and sent it to him. I bo^{t} at J. C. Court 2000℔ tob^{o} at Hog Neck or at Coll. or Capitol Land^{g}, at 16, and 3000 at Littlepages, at 15 | 8, to be p^{d} at receiving the notes.

12. I writt to Presid^{t} ab^{t} a prohibition and shew^{d} it to the Com^{y}, as writ in his name, who approved of it. Helpt Mrs. Stith and spent the even^{g} at Mr. Cock's, and had cake.

11. Mr. Christian promises to settle and pay me on the 8th of April next.

15. Vestry app^{d} Col. Burw^{l}, Mr. Holt and me to treat with undertakers for an add^{n} to ye church.

16. My mill stone broke, ye hoop bursting, had just writt ye day before to Mr. Lyde for a mill stone and for a spinnet, &c.

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[1] Mr. Walter King came to Virginia from Bristol in 1723 as partner with John King, Esq., Lyonel Lide, Esq., John Lewis, Jeremiah Jennings, and Thomas Long, merchants, all of the city of Bristol, to manage the ironworks set up in the parish of Sittenbourn, King George county, Va. (Deed recorded in King George County, August 1723.)

20. Spoke to Mr. Waller ab^{t} judg^{t} ag^{t} Mr. Field to ye King, and found ex^{n} for £37 ster. stop^{d} by late Presid^{t}.

21. Heard of L. Jackson's coin^{g} and imprisonm^{t} at Phila^{a}. Mr. Holt promised to secure Mrs. Bennet's rent to me, £12, the 25th of Octr. next, or till she leave it.

22. Rec^{d} letter fr. Jas. Blair; gave some copys to Mr. With.

28. Attended the President in a council at his house. Mr. Nelson, Mr. Comiss^{y}, Mr. Grymes and myself only attend^{g}, Assembly prorog^{d}. Had an order for rights, and advised the granting Dou—'s petition. Spoke to ye Presid^{t} ab^{t} the late Presid^{t} Lee's hav^{g} staid execut^{n} of a judgm^{t} to ye king ab^{t} £38 st., and had his order for his rent corn at 10.

30. Writt again to Jas. Blair and ab^{t} Mrs. Cole's corn.

APRIL.

1. Writt to Col. Bolling ab^{t} d^{o}. and Mrs. Blair.

2. Writ to her and Mr. Fleming, and stopt water at lower mill this morning.

3. Heard Mrs. Blair left Westo^{r} to go to Cobbs yesterday.

6. Finish^{d} inv^{o} and lett^{rs} to Lyde and Hanb^{y}, dat^{d} 30 ult., was exam^{d} as an evidence in w^{t} I knew nothing, rec^{d} lett^{r}, ℔ Boson of Blagrave's death, who, he tells me, died on Thursday last, ye 4th.

9. I promised Mrs. Hendriken to try to build a house for them by the fall.

10. Skelton wants a meeting of comitty.

11. Rec^{d} a let^{r} fr. Mrs. Blair at Cobbs, ye 6th. Rec^{d} fr. Presid^{t} Mr. Muir's comput^{n} hand^{d} by Mr. Corbin.

18. Open'd a lett^{r} to Pres^{t} for a sher. for Frederick before some of ye coun^{l}, as they had no sheriff.

20. Enclosed a coron^{rs} com^{n} to Col. Bolling, and gave it to Mr. Stark. The court reject^{d} the motion for a prohib^{n} to ye Court of Admiralty, after I had prepared their answ^{r} for granting it.

23. Had a gen^{l} meeting of the Cape Company at Wetherb^{ns}. 15 of 27 being present, when the proceed^{gs} of ye comitty were approved of. Mem^{d} Nealand, Wm. Taylor and Mrs. Cole, also Saml Dunn, Brown's est^{a}, &c.

30. I writ in the name of the council to Govr. Johnston wth 2 pirates.

MAY.

3. Heard our 1st whale bro^{t} in and 3 more struck, but lost.[1] Mr. Davis had £150 for loss of his eyes.

4. Writ to Col. Bolling ab^{t} corn at Coles. Gave to Mr. Robert Jones in court to recover for me in ye best manner he could, Wm. Taylor, his bro^{r}. Taylor security, their bond to pay £35 at Xm^{s}, 1749, also another little bond for £5, due in 1742, and some corn, which he said the security was very sufficient for vizt. John Tharp, Edm^{d} Howel borrow^{d} ye money.

6. Had letters ℘ Mr. Burwell.

7. Some fines for Champarty, the statute being on a solemn argum^{t} unan^{ly} adj^{d} in force here. Theop^{s} Field's fine refer^{d} to a council.

9. Mr. Hunter want^{d} to print my speech.

10. Travel'd to Col. Custis's in ye coach.

17. Saw a lett^{r} to Lowe Jackson. Lenox had a pamphl^{t} on ye nature of evidence sent me by Mr. Preston.

18. Rec^{d} a l^{r} fr. S^{r} Wm. Gooch of Feb. 25, wch in a P. S^{t}. says Col. Ludwell is of ye council.

22. The Prince, alas! died, we hear now, on ☿, the 20th of March, in his 45 year, and Mrs. Staunton four days after him. Col. Fairfax, we hear, is arrived in ye Hatly.

27. Mr. Richards now with me ab^{t} the Gov^{rs} house, and said if he did it he must have 4 years to finish it. Qr. what to be done.

28. Col. Fairfax gives hopes of Mr. Dinwiddie and urges some repair to the Gov^{rs} house. Mr. Waller from Spots^{a} had no news of the Presid^{t}. The gent^{n} there are content not to move ye seat of gov^{t} if they can have circuits held in proper places.

30. Gave my mad^{a} ord^{r} to Mr. Webb for 2 pipes, and writ ag^{n} for Mr. Prentis, who sent cash.

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[1] "Some principal gentleman of the colony having, by voluntary subscription, agreed to fit out vessels to be employed in the whale fishery on our coast, a small sloop callled the *Experiment* was some time ago sent on a cruize, and we have the pleasure to acquaint the public that she is now returned with a valuable whale. Tho' she is the first vessel sent from Virginia in this employ, yet her success, we hope, will give encouragement to the further prosecution of the design, which, we doubt not, will tend very much to the advantage of the colony, as well as excite us to other profitable undertakings hitherto too much neglected."—*Virginia Gazette,* May 24, 1751.

JUNE.

1. Rec^{d} a letter fr. Mr. Nelson at Sandy P^{t} return^{g} my report wth a high charact^{r} of it.

3. Wormly's lad said to have drowned himself, but found wth his head split open. Incredible.

4. Col. Wm. Randolph and his lady in town. He visited the works at the capitol. Sent my report of the prisoners to the President ☿ express; and writt again to-day ab^{t} the assembly, caveats, &c., and pressed his attendance.

6. After advising wth Mr. Nelson and Mr. Comissary, ord^{d} a proclam^{n} in the President's name to prorogue the assembly to ♃ ye 31st Octob^{r}, and this only to prevent a dissolution.

7. Seal accuses Bird of sundry felonys.

8. Carried Taylor to James Town, and gave direct^{ns}. Carried Col. Ludwell's lett^{r} to be of the council. Natt acquitt^{d}. Jos^{a}. taken and escaped again.

10. Drew up proposals and querys for ye council.

11. Offer'd them to their previous consid^{n}. Endeav^{d} a meeting ab^{t} the capitol.

12. Council approved of my proposal for repairing the Gov^{rs} house.

13. Writ to Mr. Bernard and Col. Willis, to Mr. Walthoe. Sign^{d}, &c^{a}., 3 regist^{rs} and freedom, one of wch occasion^{d} a long work and difficult^{y}. Took mem^{ds} from Col. Paton, Mr. Curry and Col. Fry, who propose our ordering Mr. Leheup to solicit the royal assent to the land law, and left some amendments to his report. Col. Custis left £22, 1, 9, wth me to pay to 5 diff^{t} sheriffs for Q^{t} rents.

14. Spoke this morn to Bird to prepare for a long journey to the President, which he readily promised.

15. This even^{g} Bird told me he could not go for the ordin^{y} allow^{ce}, and tho all w^{d} be ready wth me to-night, he could not sett off till ☾ morn, and propos^{d} at first to stay a day longer, but I prev^{d} for ☾.

16. And I find this even^{g} he carrys a led horse.

17. He sett off this afternoon wth one horse only.

18. Ord^{r} the gardn^{r} to go, for I coul^{d}n't bear him.

21. Consult^{d} Mr. Att^{o} and Mr. Waller ab^{t} a doubt start^{d} by the sher. of Surry if he co^{d} act as sher.

23. Went into mourning for the Prince.

24. Paid Saml Allen for fodder by note on P.

26. Endors^{d} a gen^{l} court writt ag^{t} a sailor.

27. Bird expects the Presid^{t} is in Gloster. But his boy did not find him there.

30. Mr. Holt gave Jackson his affid^{t} in writing much fuller than Mr. Nelson and I rememb^{d} it.

JULY.

1. I deliv^{d} to Mr. Richd Baker, of Isle of W^{t}, in a seal'd letter direct^{d} to Mr. Saml Blow, of S^{o}. Hampton, a patent for 300 acres he sold for me to Mr. Parsons, £30, 10. 0. I hear Mr. Dinwiddie's baggage was buying when Capt. Edwd Randolph came away the begin^{g} of April. I hear the Presid^{t} is not yet got home; but expected there to-morrow. Col. Ludwell dined here to-day. Ish^{m} Nicho^{ss} acco^{t} of Ld Alb in France.

2. Col. Ludwell from York tells me y^{t} the Presid^{t} is sick at Hob^{s}hole, and has sent for the papers thither. The rain this even^{g} forced him and others into Prentis's, where stay'd till ab^{t} 2 in morn^{g}.

3. Very rainy while at Mrs. Wetherburn's funer^{l}. He has found her hoard they say. I heard there that the speaker had a letter from Col. Beverly confirming our hopes of Mr. Dinwiddie's coming.

4. I hear Mr. R. Carter intends to build and live at W^{ms}burgh and to persuade all the gent^{n} he can to do so too.

5. The Presid^{t} will not sign the death warrants till he has a council. Mr. Grymes here, and tells me he saw the Presid^{t} ♀ the 3 at Urb^{a}, and that he intend^{d} home in 4 or 5 days, and aftw^{ds} to have a council at W^{ms}burgh.

7. Mrs. Blair much disord^{d} by a cold and lax, coughs much, hoarse and feverish.

9. Drew a note on Mr. Wetherburn to James Taylor for £10, lent him till October. Mr. Mossom shew^{d} me a false dollar, and yet pleaded for Jack^{n}, w^{m} yet he w^{d} had executed if done soon; but tho^{t} ye delay an excuse.

10. My mill I hear was rob^{d} on ye 7th. Began to lay bricks in mort^{r} at B^{s} house.

12. Sad news of Presid^{ts} death; I hope not so. Sad news

of poor wretch^{d} Bob Carter[1]. I hope he won't come to live in W^{ms}burgh.

13. Rec^{d} express fr. Col. Patton ab^{t} an Indian embassy from the Cherokees, wch after communicat^{g} to Mr. Comr^{y}, I resolv^{d} to send to York to be by Mr. Nelson sent on.

14. Writt to Mr. Nelsons, and had their answer.

15. Consult^{d} the Comiss^{y} (and Col. Lud^{l} ye 14) upon it.

16. I gave Mr. Bacon 5 guin^{s} tow^{ds} build^{g} his school and 2 more as my first year's subscrip^{n} to the 14th inst., when the first subscrip^{ns} were due.

18. Rec^{d} the Presid^{ts} lett^{r} to Col. Patton wth a lett^{r} from the Nelsons ab^{t} it, both wch I shew^{d} to the Comiss^{y}. I then dispatch^{d} ye messeng^{r} to Col. Patton, and answer^{d} the lett^{r} fr. the Nelsons.

22. Mr. Waller shew^{d} me the Presid^{ts} letter order^{g} a pardon for Sharp^{r}, w^{m} he w^{d} ha hang^{d} as a great runaway and rogue; but to avoid some difficulty as to regularity, he chose to pardon him.

23. Mr. Hughs told me of Jackson's behavior in prison.

24. Writ to the Presid^{t} about sundrys, and particularly about Jackson.

25. Mr. Walthoe shew^{d} me the Presid^{ts} letter of the 23d order^{g} a council ye 31st, and desiring Col. Fry's map and report, wch I sent to Mr. Walthoe that night.

26. Capt. Tate arriv^{d} last night, we hear, with near 300 slaves. Mr. Preston, on my enquir^{g}, tells me he was there when the Presid^{t} writ on ♀ 24th, and Mr. Att^{o} says he heard ye council was to be next Thursday, ye 1st of Aug.

27. Mr. Dawson tells me the Presid^{t} desires I will have the Indians accomodated if they come before he comes over; and says he will consider my letter abo^{t} Jackson. I have spoke to Finnie, who offers to accomodate them with the Apollo.

28. Mr. Dawson preach^{d} on ye repentance of the Ninivites and obstinacy of the Jews.

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[1] This was the eccentric Robert Carter, called "Councillor Carter," son of Robert, of *Nomony* (and Priscilla Churchill), who was son of Robert (*King*) Carter (and his second wife, Betty Landon), who was son of John Carter and Sarah Ludlow. He married Frances Ann Tasker, of Maryland. He changed his religion several times, freed his slaves, etc.

29. Sent express to ye Presid^{t}, and had kind answ^{r}.

30. Dr. Gilmer betw^{n} 9 and 10 at night inform^{d} me of Jackson's threat^{g} me and Mrs. Lane's acco^{t} of his ill behav^{r}.

31. Attend^{d} the Presid^{t} in council, who was ag^{t} purchas^{g} a house for the Govr of M'Kenzie, and ag^{t} Mr. Leheups acco^{t} of £22, 10, 0, and desired Mr. Fields' fine to be postp^{d} awhile, and that I w^{d} draw a letter for him to the treasury on ye addition^{l} salary to ye council, and on my motion ab^{t} Jackson, stopt me wth a desire to hear nothing of it, &c^{a}. Mr. King's dutys refer'd to the law, but I believe will be thought due.

AUGUST.

3. Col. Ludwell proposed that the council should join in a represent^{n} of Jackson's case.

4. Mr. D^{n}, So run that you may obtain. A p^{n} offend^{g} in one point is guilty of all. Corn come.

5. Doct^{r} Gilmer had 10 bar^{ls}, Mr. Dawson 5 ye 6th. Sundry fines to ye king in court hust^{s} y^{s} day.

6. Gave Thos. Holt a note on Prentis for p^{t} £45.

9. Consult^{d} wth Mr. Nelson, Mr. Grymes and Mr. Ludw^{l} ab^{t} Jackson, and gave Mr. Nelson my [6] papers to form a representation by ye assistance of the secretary.

10. Rec^{d} a letter from the President about him, and sent an answer, and at the same time sent my letter to him, wch I began at Col. Lewis's, wch I had delay'd on acco^{t} of the embassy. The Presid^{t} by himself gave them their audience of farewell, for he never spoke with them in council. Had Le^{r} fr. Jackson. This even^{g} rec^{d} a lett^{r} from the Nelsons, wth a representat^{n} to his Maj^{y} ab^{t} Jackson.

11. Writt a letter to Col. Grymes, Col. Corbin and Col. Ludwell, and sent express with it, for their hands to the representation.

13. Rec^{d} it back wth Col. Grymes and Col. Ludwell's hands to it, but not Col. Corbin's, and sent it wth fair copy of report to ye Nelson^{s} to send away. Sent also ye Presid^{ts} letter of ye 10th, with my answer and my letter to Gr^{s} Cor. and Lud., and copy to Col. Randolph to be return'd, and gave some information; then writ to ye Presid^{t} ℘ Danl Carrel. Had an answer from the secretary. Order'd powder and ball to the Indians.

14. The Indians march'd in good order with beat of drum

through the town, and made an handsome appearance in their new cloths. Rec^{d} the Presid^{ts} letter in the afternoon, ℘ Danl Carrel, and presently gave the proclam^{n} to Mr. Hunter to be printed, and gave order for the arms to be deliv^{d} acquaint^{g} Col. Patton.

15. The Nottoways came, and had a friendly interview wth the Cherokees, in the mark^{t} place, and a conference in ye court house wch renew^{d} friendship. Of this I writ to the Presid^{t}, advising a present to ye Nottow^{s}, as also of the guns to the Cherokees.

16. Had the Presid^{ts} answer, and shew^{d} it ye comiss^{y}. The Cherokees took their leave of me here, much delighted with ye musick of Spinnet.

17. Col. Patton desires his commission and instructions may be sent up after him. The Ind^{ns}, and he set off now.

19. Gave David Geddy a lett^{r} of cred^{t} for £10, on wch he had of Mr. Ambler, £6, 0, 5.

23. Shew^{d} Col. L. Burwell Jackson^{s} lett^{r}, and my answ^{r}. raised the house for Peter Hendriken.

27. Shew^{d} d^{o} and my report to C. C^{r} Burwell, who shew^{d} me his modest letter to ye Presid^{t} in Jackson's favour, w^{h} did not ask anything. I made a proposal to him.

29. Capt. Whitwell is excused going to Nova Scotia, he and Esqr Jenings dined wth the council, also Mr. Randolph. Mr. Presid^{t} dined at Mr. Attorneys, not very well. Settled a new modell of ye seats for ye Burgesses.

30. Mr. Jno. Watson dined here, and gave me a long acco^{t} of his many voiages among the islands in quest of the Spanish money pirated by Loyd, &c., from Carolina, which required his going off for London very soon. Considering how diligent he had been here about Jackson, I gave him copys of my report, his sentence, and my reasons for executing it, that he might ye better speak to it at London. He surprised me with a report he met with in Nancemond, that the evidence was not so clear at last ag^{t} Jackson, and that I was the only man of ye council that advised the President to reprieve him. O! Strange. I should rather think his friends had given it out that I was the only man of them that opposed the reprieve^{g} him: both very false.

31. I gave him a copy of my letter to Jackson, which, having heard, he desired to have.

SEPTEMBER.

7. Comunicat^{d} Jackson's affair to Col. Cary.

9. And in part to Col. Hunter.

11. Mrs. Curle went home in our coach; at hand^{g} her in I spoke of pay^{g} pasturage when I knew what it came to; but she replyed she desired no pay. While at Hampton got letters from Hanbury, a trunk of goods, ℔ the Beckie Capt. Buchanan, also a Guinea man arriv^{d} to Col. Randolph. Treated wth Proby, Allen, &c., to get the wine, &c., from Potomack.

14. Found the capitol as I left it the 3d, and as it had been for some time before, not at all advanced.

16 and 18. The gr^{t} door cases put up.

19. Had a let^{r} from Col. Patton ab^{t} ye Indians.

20. The gr^{t} gate the Burgesses went in at stopt, and begun to be brick'd up. The foundation frame of the cupulo fitted into its place in framing.

21. Spoke wth Mr. Power in fav^{r} of Col. Custis.

24. Lay^{g} bricks for the grand steps; but fear.

26. Steps bro^{t} in place, but no fasten^{g} prepar^{d}.

27. Mr. Taliaf^{o} here; view^{d} Wheatly's sash work.

28. Made inv^{o}, and rec^{d} of W. P. ye 1st £50. Seth Watkins inform'd me he had bought a large canoe for me in Gloucester, and had her at his home at the Glebe, but that the 26 s. I had sent by him was not sufficient, and that he had added 4 s. more. I bid him use her some time as his own, to make him amends for his trouble. The first stone of the grand stairs of the portico was set to-day, on wch I stood when but 2 more were laid, wth out cramps.

30. Gave my watch to Mr. Davenport, then going, and had done well til yesterday.

OCTOBER.

1. Speedy justice in J. C. court, a felony comit^{d} last n^{t}, the felon tried, sentenced and execut^{d} this afternoon.

3. Advis^{d} Mr. Hunter to delay publ^{g} an acco^{t} of the Cherokees from S^{o} Carol^{a} till ye Presid^{t}, &c., saw it.

7. Col. Fairfax expect^{d} to meet Mr. Dinwiddie here as Govr and seem^{d} surpris^{d} when I told him the Presid^{t} did not intend to be here y^{s} court.

8. Mr. Nicho^{s} tells me the Presid^{t} will be here.

10. Mr. Presid^{t} swore the court, nine being present, then two of ye nine swore the President, who retir^{d}. Then in an hour aft^{r} 12, 6 went upon the cause of Brewer & Smith (3 withdraw^{g}), but left it at 4 unfinished till to-morrow.

12. Tab's case seem'd hard to me, as also the case of Mr. Farish, who was adjudg^{d} to restore slaves wth their increase, for which he had paid the devisses (of 4 out of 6 at least), as they came of age, and had their discharges, and it was impossible to divide them among 6, as there were but 2 or 3 slaves devised to them, but by reducing them to their value, and their share of that value had been p^{d} to some of 'em 15 and 16 y^{s} agoe.

14. Court sat all day (till near 5) on King's Cause. This even^{g} Mr. Prentis rec^{d} a lett^{r} from S^{r} Wm. Gooch dat^{d} July 16, wch says Mr. Dinwiddie is appoint^{d} our Govr, and intended to be here by ye last of Oct^{r}, or beg^{g} of Nov^{r}.

15. Govr Ogle, Mr. Sec^{y} Jennings and Mr. Tasker dined here wth the council, and after dinner wait^{d} on the President at the Gov^{rs} house, where in presence of the council his Excel^{y} took the oaths before the Presid^{t}, and gave bond wth 2 surety. Mr. Plater and sev^{l} oth^{r} gent^{n} dined wth them.

16. Mr. Carlisle and Mr. Fairf^{x} here.

19. Mr. Nelson returned to court after a feaver on the even^{g} of the first day, wch occasioned him to be absent 7 days of ye court.

21. A magistr^{t} discharge^{d} a runaway who show^{d} his coin^{g} tools and contract wth his master for that business; as all justice he thought was then stopt.

22. Carried down Walker's ex^{rs} bond, but Mr. Nelson (and 3 more) was not at dinner and Skelton not come to town.

24. Govr Glen's lett^{r} to the Presid^{t} ab^{t} our late treaty wth the Cherokees, highly blam^{g} it, was read in council to-day.

25. A. made his will in 1732, and left his lands and all his person^{l} est^{te} within and wth out to his two nat. daught^{rs} with out particularly mention^{g} his 10 negroes, and in case of their deaths with^{t} issue, to his heir at law. His bro^{r} (who was not call'd to contest) 15 y^{s} after sued and recov^{d} the negroes contrary to ye plain mean^{g} of the will, I think.

26. An answer to Govr Glen drawn by a comity, was approv^{d} of in council this day. Our ord^{r} for 100,000 acres and Mr. Calmies for 60,000, were renew^{d} this day, in preference to the Ohio grant, as prior in date.

29. Black, &c., ag^{t} Mr. Jam^{s} Blair and me, went off without contest, as the depositions of the party before my l^{d} may^{r}, were adjudg^{d} insufficient evidence wth out oth^{r} proof (wch they might have had) in the case of Bradly & Griff^{n} ag^{t} Harrison's exec^{rs}, argued the day before.

30. The Presid^{t} kept the birthday in an extra^{y} manner by adding to his elegant entertainment for the ladies and gent^{n} a purce of 50 pistoles to be distributed amongst the poor by Mr. Dawson.

NOVEMBER.

1. The council desired me to contract for the rent of a house for the Govern^{r} on the terms spoken to in council, wch amounted to £70 ℔ ann^{l}, wth leave to hire Col. Ludwell's house for half a year at a venture, £40. This even^{g} I assigned to Skelton at Mr. Waller's the bond of Walker's ex^{rs} to repay the £500 advanced to him towards his rebuild^{g} ye capitol.

2. I gave Mr. Johnston Neiland's bond for £16, due near 8 years, wch he said he could recover for me tho. by mistake he is called Ninian. James Blair is, I hear, arrested for £200. In wch I cannot assist him.

5. Col^{o}. Custis's decree in his favor obtain^{d} this court, is now reversed in fav^{r} of Stanup, upon a *nil dicit*. One Poythres, of Pri. Geo., is admitted to bring ejectm^{ts} ag^{t} Col. Bland, and 5 more, in *formâ pauperis*. Mr. Johnson has 9 months given him to consider if he will prosecute his appeals ag^{t} Judy Bray Ingles, and ag^{t} Col. Bray's exec^{rs} for the 2 moitys of Nances Neck and Tutty's Neck, but this by consent of partys.

6. Mr. Johnson's bill in equity against Bray's exec^{rs} was rec^{d} by the court.

7. Writ to the Presid^{t} wth the accounts.

8. Writ to him wth Col. Patton's letters.

9. Had a line ordering pay to ye express.

11. Mr. Wyth spent the even^{g} here.

14. Planey began to underpin the house.

16. Mat Harfield p^{d} me 16 | , and prom^{d} more before Xmas, and to settle then.

Mr. King sent his q^{t} rent money for wch I made a rec^{t} yesterday, £23, 1, 7.

Doct^{r} Gilmer gave me a rec^{t} for £30, for Symmer to be p^{d} in bills as desired, for wch I agreed to take his bills for £25, and

to keep till May next; he promises in his lett^{r} to Dr. Gilmer to send them soon.

This evening Mr. Pr[est]on to prevent the young gentlemen at ye college from playing at a rehearsal in ye dormit^{y}, how they could act Cato privately among themselves, did himself, they say, act the Drun[ke]n Peasant; but his tearing down the curtains is to me very surprising.

19. We had a report of the Duke's death, as from Carolina; but very uncertain.

20. This day ab^{t} noon we had ye news of Govr Dinwiddie's safe arrival at York wth his lady and 2 daughters, and in the evening I writ to Mrs. Nelson ℘ his express.

21. Mr. Comiss^{y}, Col. Ludwell and myself went out to meet the Governor, and with Col. Fairfax, Mr. Nelson and the secretary (who came up with him from York) attended him to his house. At the entrance of the town he was complimented by the mayor and aldermen, who (wth the gent^{n}) were got together to welcome him, and invited him and the council to a dinner they had prepared at Wetherburn's, where we all dined. At the Gov^{rs} house he produced his commission wth a handsome speech, declaring his purpose of studdying the welfare of the country, relying on the assistance of the council, as his Majesty had vouchsafed to appoint him to this care. Col. Fairfax, Mr. Nelson and myself administer'd the oaths to the Govr, after wch pursuant to his instruction, the council present took the oaths anew, and Mr. Walthoe the oath of office. A proclamation to continue all officers was ordered; but the consideration of the assembly was refer'd to a fuller board at the Oyer and Ter. McKenzie's house was ord^{d} to be bought. All other business was I thought to be postponed; but Mr. Commissary moved the Govr for his letter of recomend^{n} of Mr. Jones to Southwark Parish, wch the Govr was ready to give in to. But as I had in my pocket a letter to the Govr from Mr. Menzies for that parish I thought myself obliged to deliver the letter imediately, lest it might be quite too late.

22. The Govr went back to York yesterday, and return^{d} this evening wth his lady and daughters to ye attorney's.

23. Mrs. Blair and I dined wth them there by invita^{n} and many ladies and gent^{n} visited them in the afternoon, and were highly pleas^{d} wth them. Last night I had a letter from Col.

Cary at York informing me of the small-pox at Hampton, and Mrs. Cary's resolution not to remove.

25. The Govr, his lady and Miss Dinwiddie, Mr. Attorney and his lady, the Council^{r} and his lady dined and supped with us this ☾ day. Writt to Col. Cary by Mr. Pelham.

26. Sent the coach to Moody's for Col. Lewis, Mr. Page, Mr. Willis and Mr. Carter, to wait on ye Govr. I hear now that Mrs. Symmer died last ♃ the 21st, ye day ye Govr swore in. This even^{g} I saw the gr^{t} steps at the capitol all up in their places.

27. The Govr, &c., din^{d} at Dr. Gilmer's his birth day.

28. The wid^{w} Watkins came to me about the canoe, and suspected Bryan.

29. Dick told me that Bryan's overseer said she sold it to an East^{n} Sho^{re} man. The 20th Mr. Bryan was with me ab^{t} it.

30. I went to ye land^{s} to enquire.

DECEMBER.

1. Jupiter found her at Hulets.

7. Anderson's pasture for sale Dec. ye 10th.

12. Col. Patton proposes fine land on the waters of Potomack, Delaware and Susquehanna, as in Virginia, if the western boundary of Maryland and Pennsylvania were run out and settled. This afternoon I laid the last top brick on the capitol wall, and so it is now ready to receive the roof, and some of the wall plates were rais^{d} and laid on this day. I had laid a foundation brick at the first build^{g} of the capitol above 50 year ago, and another foundation brick in April last, the first in mortar towards the rebuilding, and now the last as above.

15. My sister deliv^{d} of a daughter, who died presently.

17. A considerable snow and 23 snowed all day.

18. Mr. King took his leave of us. Doct^{r} McKenzie brought a deed prepared for his wife to join in.[1] The Govr called here as a friend. This even^{g} Lewis was thought to have the throat distemper.

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[1] Dr. Kenneth McKenzie married Joanna Tyler, great aunt of President John Tyler. His will was proved March 17, 1755, and her will on January 19, 1767. They had issue: 1. Anne, born April 10, 1737; 2. (Dr.) William McKenzie, born April 10, 1746; 3. Mary, born April 14, 1748. Dr. Kenneth McKenzie required that "his son should be kept at the College till he is qualified for being put to some genteel business"; he left his "skeleton and infected child" to Dr. James Carter, and ap-

19. Mrs. Waller here to see him. Assured Mr. Bell of McKenzie's money in a little time after compleating the conveyance wch Mr. Waller has corrected.

20. Geo. Kerr and Hen. Stanworth were hanged; each for murder. Peter Camp was found dead, and one or two more, I hear.

22. Negro Peter kill^{d}, I hear.

26. I told the Govr of Maj^{r} Wash^{ns} death.[1] Mr. Walpole had given my computa^{n} to the Govr, Mr. Dinwiddie, to examine (as he now tells me), and that he found them right.

27. Col. Ludwell and his lady, &c., came to town, and dined wth ye Govr.

29. Doct^{r} Gilmer promised the Govr the perusal of Dr. Walker's journal of his travels beyond ye mount^{ns}.[2]

31. I invited the Govr and his family to begin the year with us to-morrow.

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pointed Mr. Thomas Everard, Doctor James Carter, Doctor George Riddell, and his cousin, Dr. Kenneth McKenzie, executors. His inventory was valued at £438 13. 7, and included an interesting list of books. Mr. R. A. Brock says he has frequently met with Dr. McKenzie's books, containing his book-plate, representing the family of McKenzie of County Cromarty, Ireland. His son, Dr. William McKenzie, appears to have studied with Dr. David Black, of Blandford, near Petersburg, who married his sister, Ann McKenzie. He had Joanna McKenzie, who was ward of Judge John Tyler. She married Judge James Semple (his second wife.) In 1808, the General Assembly vested in James Semple and Joanna, his wife, lots in Blandford, whereof David Black, son of Dr. David Black, died seised—"said Joanna being nearest of kin to David Black, the younger, in the United States at the time of his death." Judge Semple had by this marriage Major Henry Churchill Semple, Dr. George W. Semple, and others. The deed referred to in the text is on record at Yorktown, and conveys for the Governor's use lots 333, 334, 335, 336, on the Palace Green, being the lots occupied by what is known as the Saunders House. This effectually disposes of Dr. E. D. Neill's rather belittling reference to the Palace, quoting Dinwiddie, who was only speaking of Dr. McKenzie's house. *Quarterly*, II., 198; VII., 145, note 2.

[1] The reference here is to Major Lawrence Washington, half-brother of General George Washington.

[2] This journal has been printed. Dr. Thomas Walker was brother-in-law of Dr. George Gilmer, who married his sister Susan (his second wife.) He was distinguished as a patriot and explorer, and was the common ancestor of Thomas Walker Gilmer, Secretary of the Navy, of William C. Rives, Senator of the United States, Hon. R. T. W. Duke, M. C., Matthew F. Maury, the scientist, etc.